

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants: R. Lattime, et al.

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For: CARPET LATEX COMPOUND

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

09/656352
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JC894 U.S. PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This invention relates to a carboxylated styrene-butadiene latex for utilization in bonding carpet piles to carpet backing. By utilizing this improved latex, it is possible to attain improved wet-adhesion, a stronger tuft bind and improved delamination resistance. These improved properties are attained by including a rosin acid soap in the carboxylated styrene-butadiene latex. This invention more specifically discloses a carpet latex compound which is comprised of (a) a carboxylated styrene-butadiene latex, (b) a filler, (c) a thickener and (d) optionally, a curative; wherein said carboxylated styrene-butadiene latex is comprised of (i) water, (ii) a carboxylated styrene-butadiene rubber, (iii) an emulsifier and (iv) a rosin acid soap. The subject invention further discloses a process for manufacturing carpet which comprises the steps of (1) coating one side of a backing with a carpet latex compound to produce a latex-coated backing, wherein the carpet latex compound comprises (a) a carboxylated styrene-butadiene latex, (b) a filler, and (c) a thickener; (2) bringing the pile into contact with the coated side of the latex-coated backing and (3) allowing the carpet latex compound to dry while keeping the pile in contact with the coated side of the latex-coated backing to produce the carpet.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99, applicant hereby cites as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application:

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENT		
U.S. PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME/COUNTRY
4,189,419	February 19, 1980	Takemoto et al.
4,297,260	October 27, 1981	Ferree, Jr. et al.
5,385,965	January 31, 1995	Bernard et al.
5,455,293	October 3, 1995	Wood et al.
5,525,655	June 11, 1996	Brockington et al.
5,721,302	February 24, 1998	Wood et al.
5,747,579	May 5, 1998	Blakeman et al.

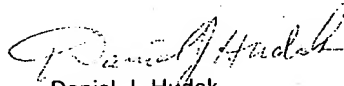
A copy of each publication is included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of its materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above publications, the Examiner is requested to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may appear because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copy being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement is the best copy available at this time.

An examination of the present application considering the above document is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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